Managing Angling Use On Classified Waters

Draft Strategy For Public Review

May 2003

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents i
1 Introduction 1
2 A Proposed Framework In Which To Operate 3
3 Identifying Candidate Waters 5
4 Development of Angling Management Plans 7
5 Compliance and Enforcement 13
6 An Advisory Process to Guide the Strategy 14
7 Next Steps 17
Comment Sheet 18

1 Introduction

1.1 Setting The Stage

This document outlines a proposed Classified Waters Management Strategy which provides a framework to manage angling use on premier or special waters. It incorporates existing and future Classified Waters. The document provides the reader with an overview of the direction in which the Ministry of Land, Water and Air Protection is developing this strategy. At this point the Ministry is seeking public input on the evolving direction of this strategy. The public input will be compiled and incorporated as appropriate before final recommendations are forwarded to the Minister for consideration.

This document builds on previous work carried out during the Angling Guide Management System & Classified Waters (AGMS & CW) review, which commenced in 2000. It reflects both government and stakeholder input obtained during this time period. This review looked at two major areas of concern, Classified Waters and Angling Guide Management. Both are important areas of concern which require attention; however, the extent of stakeholder input over the course of the review indicated that total angler use (guided and unguided) was the key issue of concern. This strategy provides a means in which this first concern, managing angling use on Classified Waters, could be addressed. The second major area of concern, angling guide management on unclassified waters and the need to foster a healthy business environment, will be addressed directly with angling guides as well representatives from the resident angling community.

Issue

British Columbia's freshwater sport fishing opportunities are managed by the provincial government to conserve fish stocks and return social and economic benefits to the provincial economy.

Over the past decade, the policies for regulating angling on premier waters have declined in effectiveness as angler use has continued to increase. Accordingly, government, anglers, guides and other members of the public have come together to propose modifications of the policies to preserve the unique qualities of the province's premier fisheries.

Background

British Columbia has some of the finest freshwater fishing opportunities in the world.

In 1990 the Classified Waters system was created to manage sport fishing and guiding activities on premier waters. This system identified rivers that resource managers and anglers determined were among the finest fisheries the province had to offer its residents, and the world. The fundamental objective was to preserve these high quality fisheries by controlling numbers of individual anglers and angling guides.

A total of 43 waters across the province were named as Classified Waters, with the majority located in the Skeena region. Additional Classified Waters were identified in the Cariboo, Vancouver Island and Thompson/Nicola regions. Limits were placed on the number of guides and the number of client days (rod days) on Classified Waters. Anglers require specific licences to fish on these waters, and only those guides with rod day quotas can operate on these waters.

Over the past decade stakeholders and resource managers recognized that the current system was no longer meeting its original expectations for managing anglers or angling guides on Classified Waters. Several reviews over the past decade have generated ideas about necessary

changes. The most recent documents that reflect the input from this review are posted on the Ministry's website: http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/fw/home/guide/agmscw_review.html.

At the Ministry level there have been several recent initiatives which set overall direction for the Ministry. These include the BC Freshwater Fishing Strategy, CORE Service Review, a new Ministry Service Delivery Plan and the Recreation Stewardship Panel Final Report which was commissioned to advise the Minister on the future management of fish, wildlife and park recreation programs. This draft is consistent with the objectives and directives set out within these initiatives.

In January and April of 2003 the Ministry conducted two workshops with representatives from angling and guide associations and independent anglers. The issues surrounding Classified Waters were discussed at these workshops, with input on a future strategy for managing premier fisheries. This input forms the basis for this draft strategy. This strategy provides a framework to manage angling use on present and future Classified Waters where conservation values are being met through current regulations and the issue of angling use/crowding is a concern.

1.2 Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles have been developed during the course of the review, and would direct the development and implementation of the Strategy. At key steps in the strategy these guiding principles would be used as a means to ensure that the intent of this strategy is applied throughout the province in a consistent manner, and that all interests are considered.

- To maintain the quality angling experience on Classified Waters.
- To provide quality angling opportunities for all anglers.
- To create an effective and mutually respectful process that facilitates sound management of angling use on Classified Waters.
- Where angling opportunities become oversubscribed, decisions regarding angling opportunities will reflect the priority and interests of British Columbian resident anglers.
- To foster a healthy business environment that is supportive of angling guides, tourism businesses and local economies.
- To realize fair social and economic returns to the Province for the use of resources.
- To provide efficient, cost-effective and transparent administrative processes.
- To create an enforceable management system that ensures regulatory compliance and promotes ethical behaviour.
- To provide for timely acquisition and application of data for efficient management.
- To compliment provincial fisheries management goals for resource conservation and sustainable fisheries.

2 A Proposed Framework In Which To Operate

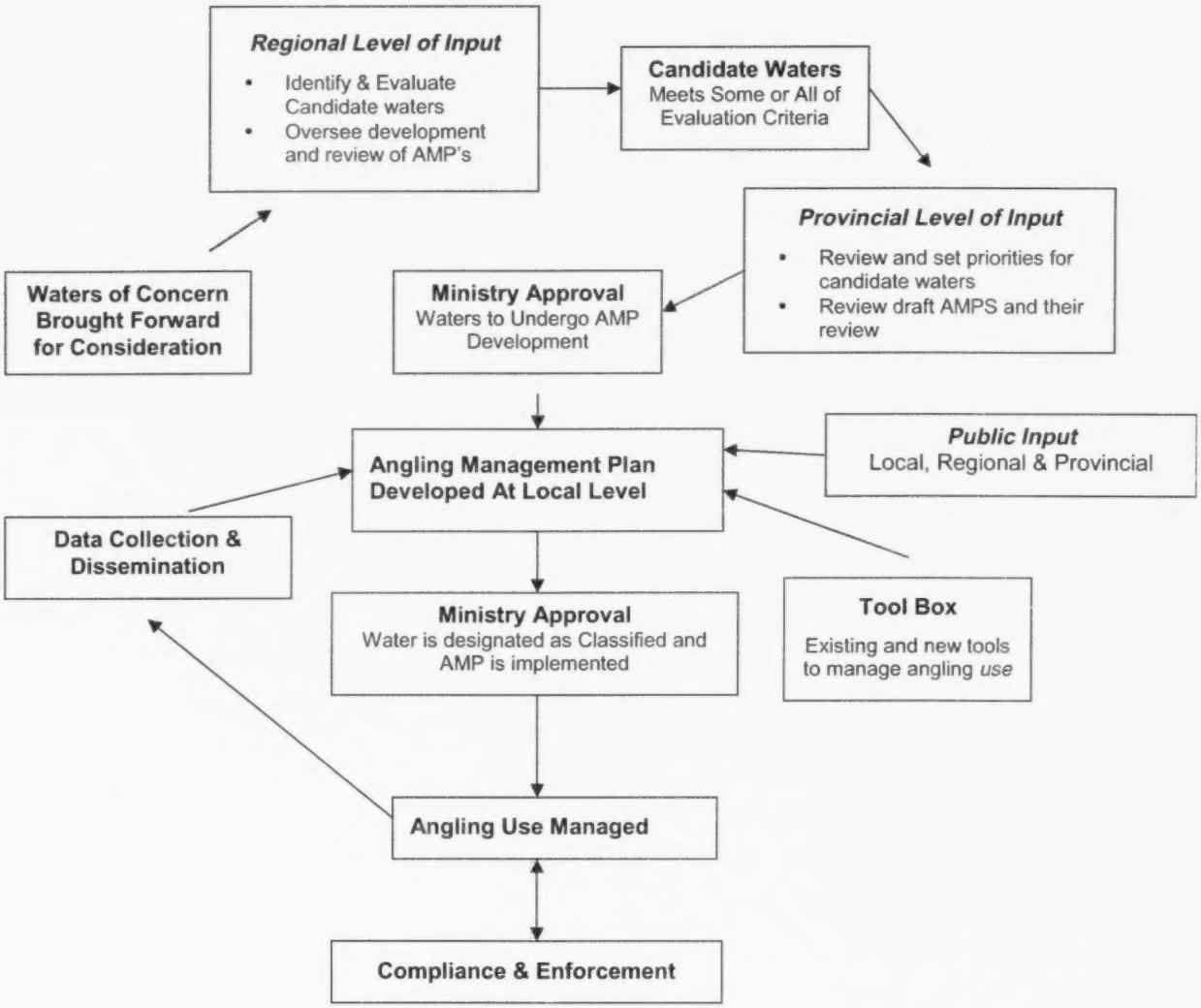
The proposed strategy would apply to existing Classified Waters and newly proposed waters. All existing Classified Waters would be subject to the new proposed strategy. The strategy would respect all currently Classified Waters rod day allocations. For the newly designated Classified Waters a new regulatory regime would be developed to address angling use. A review of the current regulatory regime in view of this proposed strategy would be required.

The proposed framework for the strategy is provided on the following page. It outlines a potential process by which waters could be identified, evaluated and designated as Classified Waters. Each classified water would ultimately have its own unique Angling Management Plan which would provide prescriptions as to how angling use would be managed and monitored.

Overseeing this framework is a proposed cooperative advisory process which allows for local, regional and provincial input by stakeholders with the guidance of Ministry staff.

The remaining sections of this strategy provide an overview as to how each of the main components of the framework could be implemented.

Exhibit 1 Proposed Framework To Manage Use On Special Waters


Regional Level of Input
• Identify & Evaluate Candidate waters
• Oversee development and review of AMP's
Candidate Waters
Meets Some or All of Evaluation Criteria
Provincial Level of Input
• Review and set priorities for candidate waters
• Review draft AMPS and their review
Waters of Concern Brought Forward for Consideration
Ministry Approval
Waters to Undergo AMP Development
Public Input
Local, Regional & Provincial
Angling Management Plan Developed At Local Level
Data Collection & Dissemination
Ministry Approval
Water is designated as Classified and AMP is implemented
Tool Box
Existing and new tools to manage angling use
Angling Use Managed
Compliance & Enforcement

3 Identifying Candidate Waters

Candidate waters are new waters of concern which have met a set of evaluation criteria to be considered for designation as classified water. The proposed process to identify and evaluate waters of concern occurs at the regional/local level. Waters of concern which meet the evaluation criteria would then be proposed as candidate waters for review at the provincial level. All candidate waters from all regions would then be reviewed together at the provincial level. This provincial review considers the issues surrounding the waters and the availability of funds and staff resources to prepare the Angling Management Plan (AMP) to priorize the list of candidate waters. The outcome of this provincial review is a list of recommended waters to be considered by the Ministry for the development of an AMP. The Ministry, based on these recommendations, would determine which waters would undergo the development of an AMP. Upon completion and approval of the AMP the waters are then designated as Classified Waters under this new proposed regime.

3.1 Evaluation Process

Waters where concerns with angling use have been identified and where conservation is not a concern would undergo an evaluation process to determine if they should be considered as candidate waters for Classified Waters. These waters would be identified at the local/regional level by the angling community and/or Ministry staff.

Prior to the evaluation, preliminary baseline information would be collected on the water of concern. This could include list of fish species, level of angler use and list of issues related to angling use. The water of concern would then be tested against a consistent list of evaluation criteria. In order for the water of concern to be considered as candidate water it is required to ***meet some or all*** of the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria

Angler Crowding;

- The water in question should be subject to existing or potential crowding by resident, non-resident and non-resident alien anglers; and
- Resident anglers, guides and stakeholders should express support for managing the level of angling use.

Presence of a Special Fish Stock(s);

- Freshwater or anadromous fish stock with the priority being placed on wild fish under provincial management, bearing exceptional qualities, including: size; responsiveness; fighting ability; and, physical beauty; and,
- Stock acknowledged by the angling community to be special.

Setting

- Relatively unspoiled waters and surroundings that contribute significantly to the fishing experience.

Economic And Social Value

- Waters which currently, or have the potential to, generate local, regional and provincial economic value; and
- Waters which have important social values to residents of British Columbia.

Outcomes of the Evaluation

Waters that meet some or all of the evaluation criteria would then be considered as candidate waters for consideration at the provincial level. Each candidate water being proposed for consideration would require but be not limited to, the following information:

- List of Evaluation criteria which the Candidate Water meets.
- Background information on the water (location, size, etc.).
- Preliminary list of issues and concerns regarding angling use.
- Any available data on angling use.
- Evidence of support at the local, regional and provincial levels.
- Recommended list of interim measures for the Ministry to consider implementing while the AMP is being developed (taken from the tool box).

This information would be prepared at the regional level.

Waters which do not meet the evaluation criteria would not be considered as Candidate waters.

Existing Classified Waters

All existing Classified Waters should undergo the evaluation process to determine whether they currently meet the new requirements for Classified Waters. This evaluation of existing Classified Waters would occur on a priority needs basis and it is anticipated that most existing Classified Waters would not be considered for this evaluation in the short term. Existing Classified Waters being considered for re-evaluation would undergo the same regional level evaluation as noted previously for newly identified waters. If these waters meet the evaluation criteria then the water would be proposed to the provincial level for consideration to undergo the development of an Angling Management Plan. If an existing Classified Water is reviewed and does not meet these evaluation criteria then the river would be subject to declassification.

3.2 Review of Candidate Waters

It is anticipated that the review of all candidate waters being proposed for consideration would occur on an annual basis in time to be incorporated into the Ministry's budgeting process. This review would take place at the provincial level and all waters being proposed for all regions would be reviewed at the same time. The outcome of this review would be a recommended prioritized list of candidate waters to be considered for the development of an AMP and the ultimate designation as Classified Water. The following criteria would be used in the review of the candidate waters to prepare the prioritized list:

- Seriousness of the concern
- Urgency to be addressed
- Potential growth in angling use and related impact if not managed
- Availability of funds and staff resources to prepare the Angling Management Plan.

This recommended list of candidate waters would be submitted to the Ministry for consideration. The Ministry would then review the recommendations and determine which water or waters would undergo the process to develop an Angling Management Plan. This process is summarized in the following section.

4 Development of Angling Management Plans

The development of an Angling Management Plan (AMP) is proposed to occur at the local level with regional and provincial input. An overview of the process to prepare the AMP is provided in this section. In preparing the draft AMP consistent tools would be provided, including an AMP template, tool box and relevant data which are described in this section as well.

4.1 Overall Process to Develop a AMP

The proposed process to develop an AMP addresses the need for fishery specific knowledge and expertise, a requirement for a consistency in format, content and application and a consideration for the limitations in available funds and staff resources. The process is summarized in Exhibit 2 and the major components are described below.

A key factor in this proposed process is that time limits would be set for each stage of the process. The following are the time limits being proposed:

- Set up of an Ad Hoc Committee, Data Gathering and Initial Public input – 2 Months
- Workshop and Follow-up to prepare draft AMP – 2 months
- Public Input on Draft AMP – 1 month
- Preparation of Final Draft AMP and submission to provincial level for review – 1 month.
- Total time limit to prepare the AMP is 6 months.

In addition to the time limits the success of the AMP process would also be dependent on the following resource requirements:

- Assigned Ministry staff to participate on the Ad Hoc Committee to provide fisheries expertise and baseline information
- A professional facilitator to assist in the AMP workshop and the preparation of the draft AMP, this facilitator would have a clear understanding of the requirements to ensure that the draft AMP is consistent with provincial requirements.

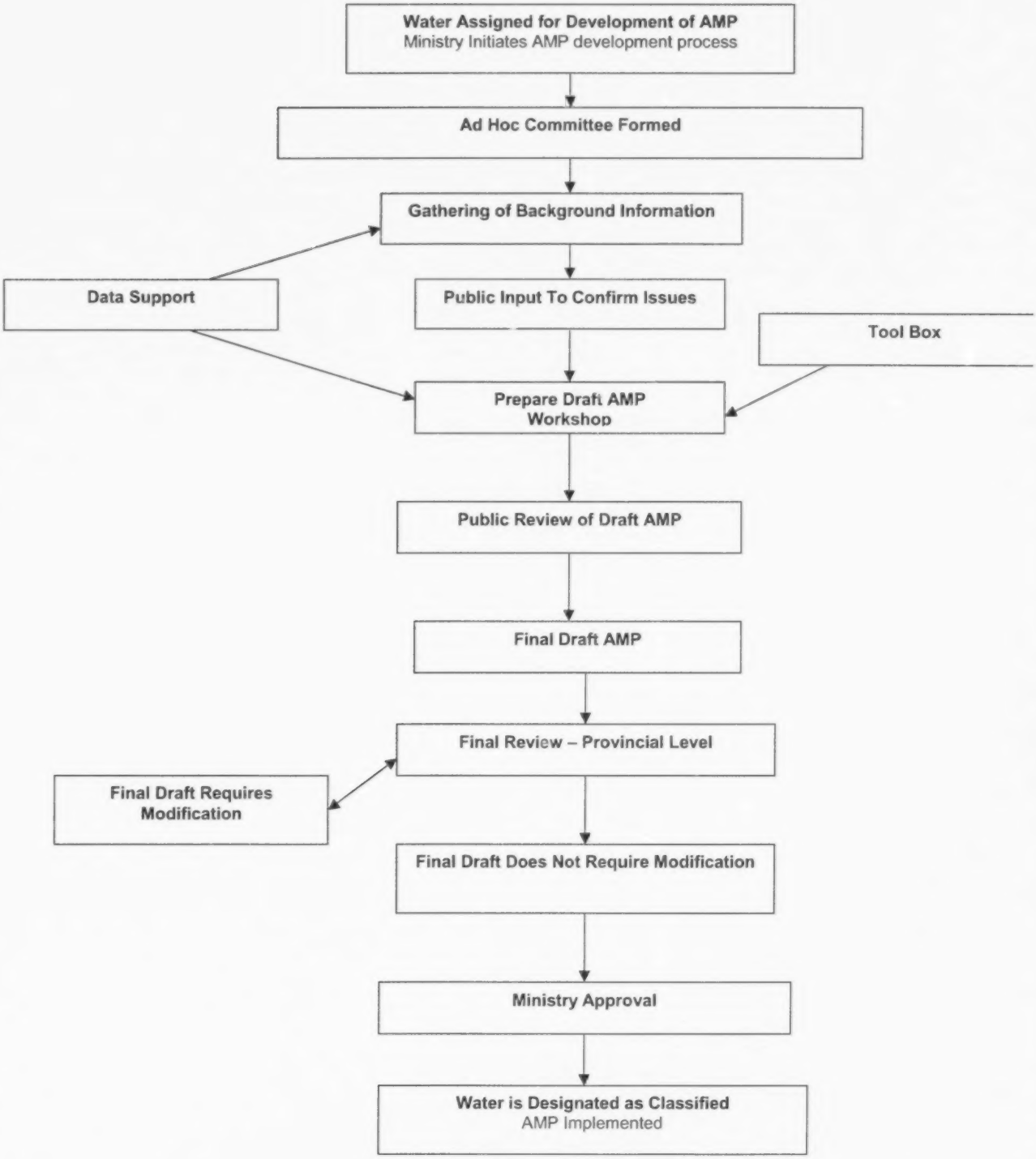
Ad Hoc Committee

For each AMP an Ad Hoc Committee would be established to assist the Ministry with the development of the draft AMP. This committee would have participants who have knowledge of the specific fishery, Ministry staff and representatives from the regional level.

This Ad Hoc Committee should be tasked with:

- Gathering local information on the candidate water (including data on angler use).
- Identifying the issues regarding angling use.
- Developing the draft AMP.
- Ensuring that there is informed public input into the development of the AMP.

Exhibit 2 Process To Develop Angling Management



Gathering of Background Information & Initial Public Input

The first task of the Ad Hoc Committee would be to gather all of the available baseline information with the assistance of Ministry staff. This information would then be presented at the initial public input session to ensure that participants of the consultation program have the same level of information and understanding of the concerns. This baseline information could include, but not be limited to:

- Physical description and setting of the candidate water
- Status of Fish stocks – information on fish stocks
- Profile of angling use on Candidate Water– distribution of anglers, number of anglers, angler origin (BC resident, Canadian non-resident and non-Canadian), timing of angling, businesses supported by angling (guides, lodges, local community businesses)
- Important social values of candidate waters
- List of issues regarding angling use

The public would then be invited to an open house session where they could review the baseline information and list of issues. The public would then be asked to confirm the list of issues for the AMP to address and provide any additional information on angling use.

Draft AMP

The Ad Hoc Committee would be tasked with preparing the draft AMP. A professional facilitator would assist the committee in its deliberations and efforts to prepare the draft. It is proposed that the bulk of the discussions would occur during a 2-3 day 'professionally' facilitated workshop. Time prior to this session would be used to consolidate the information obtained from the initial public consultation and to gather other required information. As well, the time following the workshop would be used to review and revise draft documents prior to its release for public review.

The Ad Hoc Committee would make every effort to reach agreement on all aspects of the draft AMP. If after considerable effort agreement could not be achieved on a specific area of the draft AMP, the differences of opinions would be represented as options in the draft AMP. The public would have an opportunity to comment on these options in the next step.

Public Review of Draft AMP & Development of Final Draft

The draft AMP would then undergo public review at the local, regional and provincial level. The Ad Hoc Committee would consolidate input from this public review and, if appropriate, the draft AMP would be modified to reflect the public input.

The final draft AMP would then be prepared and submitted to the provincial level for final review prior to submission to the Ministry for approval. The intent of this review would be to ensure that the final draft AMP meets the provincial requirements for process, format and the guiding principles as set out in this strategy (Section 1.2). If the Provincial committee identifies any areas deficient in meeting these requirements; it would then pass it back to the Ad Hoc Committee for revision.

If there was a specific area within the final draft AMP which could not be agreed upon at the local/Regional level this area would be reviewed at the provincial level and a recommendation on the final option would be incorporated into the AMP.

Final Approval

Once all requirements for the AMP were met, the recommended AMP is submitted to the Ministry for consideration and approval. Once approved the waters would then be designated as Classified Waters and the AMP would be implemented.

4.2 Angling Management Plan Template

The proposed template outlined below would be used by all Ad Hoc Committees to prepare a draft Angling Management Plan (AMP). This template would ensure regional consistency for all AMP's and at the same time provide flexibility for the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare a draft AMP which reflects local conditions and concerns.

The template would be drafted during the 2-3 day facilitated workshop as noted in the previous section. The required baseline information, identification of issues and public input would be gathered prior to this workshop.

For each angling use issue a recommended tool or tools would be identified to address the issue. Associated with each proposed tool, details on how the tool would be implemented, an estimate of the cost to implement and method to measure the tools effectiveness would be identified. The template for the documenting of this information is provided in Exhibit 3.

In preparing this draft AMP the objectives and recommended tools would be tested against the guiding principles of this strategy. If an objective or tool goes against a guiding principle then the AMP would require revisions in order to align it with the principles.

The draft AMP would include the following sections:

1. Description of Candidate Water and Current Angling Use – summary of baseline information
2. Table to Manage Angling Use Issues and recommended Tools – as per Exhibit 3
3. Summary of Resource Requirements – total resources and costs to implement all of the proposed tools.
4. Compliance Strategy – recommendations for compliance
5. Recommendation as to when a full review of the approved AMP should take place.

Exhibit 3 Proposed Template For AMP
Managing Angling Use Issues & Recommended Tools

Angling Use Issue #1:	• *Description of angling use issue – when and where angling use is a concern*
Objective To Address Issue:	• *Statement of what is to be achieved in order to address the issue*

Recommended Tools To Meet Objective

Tool	**Responsibility to Implement Tool**	**Estimated Cost to Implement Tool**	**Method to Measure Effectiveness of Tool**
Tool #1 Selected from the Tool Box	*Who will implement the tool, Ministry staff, angling community, angling sector, etc.*	*Estimated costs both public and private sector costs*	*Method and when it should be applied to measure effectiveness*
Tool # 2			

4.3 The Tool Box

The tool box is intended to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with a full range of tools in which to address and manage the specific issues with respect to angling use. Currently the most common tools to manage angler use on existing Classified Waters are to regulate guides and their clients through the allocation of rod days on all or certain sections of a particular water and through the lottery on the Dean River. There are many additional tools that could be considered to manage angling use. The tool box would include these new tools as well as the ones currently used on Classified Waters.

The committee would select a tool that best addresses the specific issue of angling use. Ministry staff would develop the tool box with input from the provincial level in its initial stages. New tools identified at the local, regional or provincial level could then be added to the tool box at any time. The tool box would not include any tool that restricts a specific gear type; it would essentially stay out of the tackle box.

Each tool could have the following information associated with it to assist the Ad Hoc Committee in the preparation of the draft AMP:

- How the tool would be implemented.
- Who would implement the tool.
- Estimated costs to implement the tool.
- Requirements for statutory authority.
- Method to measure the effectiveness of the tool.

The underlying principle in choosing a tool from the tool box would be to select the least intrusive tool that is able to meet the objectives assigned to a specific angling use issue.

In selecting the tools the Ad Hoc Committee would be required to test the use of the tool against the guiding principles of the strategy (Section 1.2). Any tool that conflicts with the guiding principles could not be recommended and the committee would need to choose another tool.

The following is an example of the spectrum of existing and potential tools which could be considered for the tool box:

- Angler licensing – limit when, where and how long an angler can fish on the Classified Waters or portion of the waters
- Angler origin – limit the number of non-resident anglers to fish on Classified Waters
- Angler Access - set restrictions as to how the angler will travel to and from the fishing sites i.e. boats etc.
- Angling guides – limit the number of guides, number of assistant guides, set restrictions as to when and where they can guide anglers, limit the total amount of guided anglers for any one guide at a particular time or in a particular place.
- Zones of angling use – establish zones along the classified water and set targets for use within these zones
- Reservation system – establish a reservation system for angling use on the classified water

4.4 Data Support

The success of the AMP process is dependent on the baseline information available on angling use for the candidate water. Currently there is little detailed information available on the angler profile (number of anglers, where they come from, how often they fish, where they fish, how they access the fishing areas and catch information).

It is essential that current and future data collection methods support this new strategy. For example, the Ministry is currently developing an Electronic Licensing system that has the potential to provide baseline information on current and potential Classified Waters use. It could also be used to assist in implementing tools from the tool box which are tied to angler licensing. Therefore, the Electronic Licensing System in its initial design phase should take into consideration the information requirements for this strategy.

As draft AMP's are prepared data gaps would be identified at the regional/local level. The data gaps would be brought to the provincial level for consideration as part of the draft AMP. A role of the provincial level would be to make recommendations to the Ministry regarding the identified data gaps.

4.5 Review of Angling Management Plans

Two types of review are proposed to monitor and measure the effectiveness of the AMP. The first would be a preliminary review of all AMP's undertaken annually at the regional level. This review could consider the following criteria:

- Has angling use changed within the past several years?
- Have issues with respect to angling use been brought forward?
- Is the time for a full AMP review as set within the AMP expired?

The second type is a full AMP review that would take place when required. Some Classified Waters may require earlier reviews due to the seriousness of the issues surrounding angling use. As noted above the preliminary annual review of all AMP's within the region would identify if a specific Classified Water required this more detailed review.

The detailed AMP review would be conducted at the regional level. The Ad Hoc Committee that assisted in the development of the AMP would be invited to participate in this review. The measures identified within the AMP, would be compiled and the effectiveness of the AMP in addressing each of the issues of angling use would be determined. A report of the AMP review, including recommendations for revisions or additions to the AMP would be prepared. This report would be presented to the provincial level for review and recommendations would be forward to the Ministry for consideration.

5 Compliance and Enforcement

This proposed draft strategy will not work unless compliance and enforcement are in place. There are limitations within the current compliance and enforcement system to support the existing Classified Waters and many of the changes proposed within this strategy. Therefore, there is a requirement to undertake a review of how current compliance and enforcement efforts could support this new strategy.

With respect to enforcement there is a need to look at alternative methods as the staff and regime in which enforcement is managed has changed significantly over the past few years.

The ways in which compliance could be addressed include:

- Regulations
- Tools that encourage compliance that are incorporated into the AMP, i.e. code of conduct, education, training
- Guide Policy – angling guide management that encourages compliance and addresses illegal guiding

To support the need for compliance each AMP would include a compliance strategy. In developing this compliance strategy the Ad Hoc Committee would need to look outside the current system and identify new ways in which to address compliance and enforcement. At the provincial level this would be explored with Ministry staff to identify some common strategies that could be considered by the Ad Hoc Committees when developing the draft AMP.

With reference to angling guide management and illegal guiding, as noted in the Introduction, the Ministry has agreed to work with the Angling Guide community to work through these angling issues.

6 An Advisory Process to Guide the Strategy

As introduced in Section 2, this strategy proposes a two level advisory system to provide consistent provincial and regional input to assist the Ministry in its efforts to implement this strategy. Ad Hoc Committees to help prepare the draft AMP's are also proposed. A proposed purpose and mandate for the provincial and regional levels is provided in this section. However, specific information is not provided for the following reasons:

- The various options have not been explored in any detail, including an assessment of the funding and staffing requirements.
- The integration of this proposed advisory process with the broader stakeholder process currently being developed in response to the recommendations of the Recreation Stewardship Panel (proposed Provincial Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee) has not been explored.

It is recommended that a range of options with respect to the number of advisory groups be considered. This range could include the following options:

- The most extensive option which has one provincial advisory group with 6-9 regional advisory groups.
- A provincial group supported by 2-3 regional groups representing broader regions, but reflecting the balance of where the premier waters are located (for example currently there are 43 Classified Waters with the majority falling within the Skeena Region).
- One provincial group which is tasked with setting up the Ad Hoc Committee on an as needed basis.
- The advisory component for this framework is fully incorporated into the broader stakeholder process which is being developed in response to the Recreation Stewardship Panel.

As part of the public review of this draft strategy comments on these various options will be solicited (see comment form at end of document). At the same time as the public is reviewing this strategy the Ministry will undertake an assessment of each of these options.

6.1 Provincial Level

Proposed Purpose

To provide a forum at the provincial level in which the resident angling community, angling guides, tourism businesses dependent on freshwater sport fishing and government can meet to review, discuss and make recommendations regarding the implementation of this strategy to manage angling use on Classified Waters.

Proposed Tasks

1. Put forward recommendations on candidate waters for possible AMP development.
    - On an annual basis review the candidate waters being proposed at the regional level and make recommendations to the Ministry on a list of priority candidate waters to be considered for the AMP process and the ultimate designation as Classified Waters.

2. Review of AMP's

- Review the final draft AMP's to ensure that they meet the guiding principles of the strategy, are consistent with the process and format required for all AMP's as outlined in Section 4 and address the key areas of concern.
- Review the AMP review document prepared at the regional level and forward recommendations to the Ministry for consideration.

3. Make Policy Recommendations

- Make recommendations as required to the Ministry on concerns raised with respect to angling use management and the implementation of this strategy.

Proposed Membership

This provincial level should be comprised of stakeholder representatives from the resident angler community and freshwater sport fishing businesses including angling guides, lodge owners, tackle shops and other tourism businesses which are dependent on freshwater fishing. It would also have government representatives to provide fisheries expertise.

The potential membership selection process for the group should focus on establishing a balance between the resident angler community, the commercial sector and government representatives. Secondary emphasis should be placed on geographical representation to attempt to have all regions represented by the membership. In selecting the members the focus would also be on seeking knowledgeable and committed individuals representing a broad range of interests.

The details on the number of members and the linkage between any future Provincial Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee requires further review and assessment.

6.2 Regional Level

Proposed Purpose

To provide a forum at the regional level in which the resident angling community, angling guides, tourism businesses dependent on freshwater sport fishing and government can meet to review, discuss and make recommendations to the provincial level regarding the implementation of this strategy to mange angling use on Classified Waters.

Proposed Tasks

1. Put forward recommendations to the provincial level on candidate waters to be considered for an AMP process

- These recommendations would be based on the evaluation process as outlined in Section 3 of the Strategy. All waters being recommended to the Provincial level would require the background information as outlined in Section 3 of the strategy.

2. Development and Review of AMP's

- Upon direction from the Ministry the regional level would assist the Ministry in the AMP process for a specific candidate water. This would include the setting up of the Ad Hoc Committee and the preparation of the draft AMP using the process, templates and tools outlined in section 4.0 of the Strategy. The draft AMP would be submitted to the provincial level for review.
- Upon notification from the Ministry the Regional Level would undertake a full review of an AMP and make recommendations for modifications. This document would be submitted to the provincial level for review.

Proposed Membership

The regional level could be comprised of regional stakeholder representatives from the resident angler community and the commercial sector including angling guides, lodge owners, tackle shops and other tourism businesses which are dependent on freshwater fishing. It would also have government representatives to provide expertise as staffing resources allow.

In selecting the membership for the group the priority should be on establishing geographical representation of all sub-regions. Secondary emphasis should be on a balance between the resident angler community and the commercial sector. In selecting the members the focus should also be on seeking knowledgeable and committed individuals representing a broad range of interests.

The details on number of regional groups, the number of members and the linkage between any future Provincial Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee requires further review and assessment.

6.3 Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc committees to assist in the development of AMP's would be established when a region is preparing a draft AMP. This committee would ensure that fishery specific knowledge is incorporated into the development of the AMP's. This committee would be in place for the time frame set out to develop the draft AMP. Once the AMP has been approved at the provincial level the Ad Hoc committee would no longer be in operation. The Ad Hoc Committee could be called upon by the Regional level to assist in the full detailed review of the AMP which the Ad Hoc Committee worked on. Further detail on the role of this Ad Hoc Committee is provided in Section 4.

7 Next Steps

The public review of this draft strategy will continue until June 6th. A comment sheet is provided for you to complete and send in to the Ministry.

All comments received from the public review will be consolidated. The final draft strategy will then be prepared based on the public input. The Final Strategy will then be submitted to the Minister of WLAP for approval.